Week ending November 1, 2008

Countdown to Pad Abort-1 - 169 days



Honeywell recently completed an acceleration protoflight test of the Pad Abort 1 Spare Flight Test-Remote Interface Unit (FT-RIU) (Photo right). The test simulated launch loads to demonstrate the FT-RIU will perform during the Pad Abort-1 launch.

Michoud Assembly Facility Universal Weld System continued installation of conduit and hydraulic lines in preparation for z-axis boom delivery and installation. Utility installation is complete at the Universal Weld System 2.

The Pad Abort-1 Nose Cap is complete and awaiting shipment to Dryden Test Flight Facility in December.

The photo at left shows the nose cap integrated to the instrumented nose cone section.

The Launch Abort System Abort Motor was transported to the test stand in preparation for the November 20 full-scale test fire of the Launch Abort Motor for the Orion crew exploration vehicle (Photo below). A test like this has not been conducted since the Apollo Program tested its launch escape system. This test is the culmination of a series of motor and component tests that were conducted earlier this year in preparation for the Pad Abort-1 Flight Test scheduled for spring 2009.





Communications & Public Engagement

Astronaut Lee Morin gave an avionics and flight control panel overview at an *Orion* All Hands Team meeting of the most recent configuration of the Honeywell flight panel displays in the NASA Auditorium at Michoud Assembly Facility. Morin displayed a small-scale mock-up of a prototype of the most recent configuration of the *Orion* crew exploration vehicle cockpit. Morin, who flew on the STS-110 mission, is the NASA deputy lead on the *Orion* Cockpit working group currently developing prototyping display layouts for the Crew Module.



Lockheed Martin provided a Constellation Program – Orion crew exploration vehicle overview to a group of 50 freshman engineering students at Texas A&M University.